

## 'POISON VOICE' SLURS FOREST HILLS CLUB

Members of Garden Players  
Said to Have 'Debauches'  
at Meetings.

## 'HINT' FOLLOWS NOTES

Mysterious Phone Message  
Tells Apartment Agent Not  
to Permit Gathering.

## PARTY PLANS UNCHANGED

Amateurs Unafraid of Under-  
handed Attack Just Before  
Hallow'en Festivities.

Forest Hills, Queens, is beginning to think that somebody has started in to slander the whole population. An anonymous attack on the Gardens Players, the community dramatic society, came to light yesterday.

It is generally attributed to the same source as the "poison pen" letters assailing a young matron and a man more than twice her age which were distributed by the score a week ago. Police detectives have been called in and residents asked to help in unmasking their traducers.

Bombardment of the Gardens Players started on Wednesday. A man, apparently trying to disguise his voice, called up Guyon L. C. Earle, agent for the Gardens and Tennis place apartments, who was in his New York office, 358 Fifth avenue.

"Do you know," said the squeaky voice, "that those Forest Hills players are going to have a Hallow'en dance next Monday night in the tea room of the Tennis apartments, which you control?"

"Yes," Mr. Earle answered. "I know it. What about it?"

"Are you going to permit it?"

"Why, certainly. Why not?"

**Calls Parties Debauches.**

"Didn't you know what the character of those people is? Don't you know that their parties are debauches?"

Mr. Earle said he knew nothing of the kind; that in fact he knew they were not debauches. He asked the caller to give his name, but he wouldn't.

"Then I can't talk to you," Mr. Earle said. "I can't pay attention to persons who say such things and then won't give their names."

"All right," the voice answered. "I have definite information and if you won't stop this party I'll circulate a petition in the apartments to have it stopped."

The voice then quit the wire and Mr. Earle reported the conversation to Walter Hartwig, moving spirit of the Garden Players and former executive director of the Drama League of America. The president of the Players is Edward Swazey, the vice-president, Miss Maude Marren; the treasurer,

Miss Mary Taylor, and the corresponding secretary, Miss Helen Hoeft. They had a meeting and Mr. Swazey sent a letter to every member of the society.

**"Party to Go On Just the Same."**

After noting the anonymous charge that the Players hold "debauches," Mr. Swazey wrote:

"It is apparent that this individual either is of a fanatical turn of mind or else he is misinformed and his activities are misinterpreted. Happily as amateurs of the coming Hallow'en party Mr. Earle finds himself sufficiently well informed as to the character of our membership and our parties to discount entirely such anonymous criticism and to take such steps as are proper to prevent unauthorized persons from approaching the residents of the apartments with unfounded representations."

"Through his courtesy and confidence we will be able to hold our party notwithstanding. Unfortunately this anonymous influence may continue to manifest itself, and it is the determination of the executives of The Gardens Players to trace the source or sources of this unwarranted attack. I therefore ask you, as a member of the Players, to report to me promptly whatever information will tend to identify this source so that proper action may be taken."

All the Players are ready to exercise their dramatic talent as amateurs, but this far they have not caught any one. On Friday a report was heard that a tall and distinguished looking man with an English accent had called on a woman in the Tennis place apartments and started to reproach the Players.

Mr. Swazey hurried into action, but the woman said the only stranger who had rung her doorbell was an Armenian peddler who gave no sign that he knew the Players existed. There also are reports that certain residents have received personal letters warning them against the Players, and that the "poison pen" is being used to attack other persons in Forest Hills, but they are not verified.

The Players were organized about eight years ago. They give three subscription plays each season and a party every now and then. They have about

170 members. They formerly had their parties in the Masonic Hall, but were told when they applied again that they couldn't have it because they left the hall, which is in the basement of a partly finished building, in "bad condition" the last time they held forth there.

The elderly married man named in the "poison pen" letters scattered through the mails last Monday said on Friday that he had reported the affair to the Post Office inspectors and would give them letters he had received from the blackmailers, who by telephone had demanded \$5,000 as the price of silence. The chief clerk in the office of the Post Office inspectors of this district said no complaint had been made so far as he knew.

Some of the Forest Hills residents believe that the blackmail threats were merely pretense, intended to cloud the identity of the letter writers.

**POLICE HEADS DISMISS  
MASONIC BURGLAR'S KIN**

**Patrolman Threatened After  
Spree to Shoot Wife.**

Patrolman Walter Metelski, of the Butler street station, half brother of William Metelski, known as the "Masonic Burglar," who was shot and killed last year by policemen, was dismissed yesterday. Patrolman Metelski, who is 24 years old and lives at 92 Seventh avenue, Brooklyn, went home in the night of last August 19, after he had been drinking, and threatened to shoot his wife. He was arrested at that time and held in \$5,000 bail by Magistrate Ellinger.

The first charge against Metelski is that on July 18 he failed to report promptly to operate a motor patrol and reported sick an hour and twenty minutes late. The other three of the four charges on which he was found guilty have to do with his getting drunk on August 10, failing to take action against the person who sold him the drink and threatening his wife.

Now if there was any one about the outside of the Fraley house, on the porch or at one of the front windows on the night of the murder that person would have seen almost beyond question a woman on a mule in the roadway or in the fields beyond. Though he might not have seen the killing, as that took but a minute or so, he would have seen the woman on a mule. The question arises: Did Mrs. Fraley see Mrs. Gibson and does her knowledge agree with Mrs. Gibson's statement as to the time Mrs. Gibson was in the neighborhood?

Before this Mr. Pfeiffer had called at the courthouse and asked first for the State troopers and then for Mr. Mason.

## MRS. HALL SAYS SHE WAS NOT NEAR MURDER FARM

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made, the elaborations and the contradictions. Her neighbors are divided not only as to the story but also as to the woman's character. Therefore Mrs. Gibson will remain more or less of an uncertainty, so far as the public is concerned, until more developments occur and she tells her story fully and completely in a manner that can stand as a record.

Mott has put the woman through a sort of third degree, following her own plan of cross examination. It was learned today. When he questioned her yesterday he purposely misconstrued some of her answers and her story, but every time he did so she came back with a correction, so that both Mott and Mason were convinced beyond any doubt that she would make an excellent witness and that the story she tells would hold before a jury. However strong or weak Mrs. Gibson's story may be, it and Mott's acceptance of it, brought Timothy N. Pfeiffer, the Hall lawyer, and some of his assistants to New Brunswick early to-day and there was a conference at the Hall home this afternoon at which it is understood the whole situation was gone over in detail, with Mr. Pfeiffer furnishing the necessary legal shadings and issuing instructions.

It is therefore clear that while Mr. Mott on the one hand believes the case is no longer a mystery, Mr. Pfeiffer, representing Mrs. Hall believes it is still as deep a mystery as ever. The issue is clearly drawn between the two.

**Don't Deny Gibson Story.**

Of the Gibson story as a whole Mr. Pfeiffer said at the interview he gave to-day: "It is a very remarkable story, and I want you to understand that we do not question it or deny any part of it except that part which relates to Mrs. Hall. Neither I nor any one representing me or Mrs. Hall has seen or attempted to communicate with Mrs. Gibson, and we have no intention of doing so."

"Do you anticipate Mrs. Hall's indictment was asked, and Mr. Pfeiffer replied: "I do not, and I don't see how that is possible unless some false testimony is given." Later, answering another question, he said: "As an indi-

vidual and as Mrs. Hall's lawyer I believe Mrs. Hall is entirely guiltless."

Mr. Pfeiffer, answering questions, said that Mrs. Hall was already familiar with a part of the Gibson statement and that he would acquaint her with the remainder at once. She is not reading the newspapers, he said, under his instructions. The newspapers in the Hall home are kept in Miss Sallie Peters's room.

He added, however, that Mrs. Hall thoroughly appreciates the seriousness of her situation. She will not be seen by interviewers despite the tension of the situation, because, as Pfeiffer said, "she shuns publicity." She has stated to him that she never received any messages from Mrs. Addison Clarke or Ralph V. M. Gorsline or any one else regarding relations between Hall and Mrs. Mills, nor did she receive from these people any letters that passed between the two.

**Mrs. Hall Didn't Sleep.**

The most interesting part of Mr. Pfeiffer's interview related to the incidents of the Hall house on the day and the evening of the murder. Prefacing this, Mr. Pfeiffer answering a direct question as to whether he could account in detail for Mrs. Hall's movements on the evening of September 14, said he was not interested much in corroborative statements.

"Mrs. Hall did not go to sleep at all," said Pfeiffer. "It was the custom of Mrs. Hall to come home fairly early. He went to many meetings and was frequently out in the evening, but if he was to be very late or was not coming home at all he invariably told Mrs. Hall in advance."

"He said nothing about such thing on the night in question. Mrs. Hall put Mr. Hall's little niece to bed about 9 o'clock and went to her own bed at about 10 o'clock. She did not go to sleep. Mrs. Hall and Mr. Hall occupied the same room. She remained awake until 2:30 in the morning, very anxious."

"At that time she awakened her brother William and the two went to the church, as has been told."

"Did she see or hear Barbara Tough when Barbara came in, as she said, about 10 o'clock?"

"No, no one saw Barbara as far as I've found. This may have import-

ance, for Barbara was said to have entered the house after spending her day off. She heard no one and the house was entirely still."

**Clarke Visit Explained.**

Mr. Pfeiffer also related something of the visit of Mrs. Addison Clarke to the Hall home on the Thursday afternoon. He said Mrs. Clarke arrived with Miss Marian Stokes to take a photograph of the girl in her graduation dress. Mrs. Hall was in the kitchen, he said, and Mrs. Clarke did enter the house.

"Yes, they were alone," said Pfeiffer laughing, "but the cook was in and out of the kitchen. Mrs. Hall was putting up pickles. They had plenty of time to talk. Mrs. Hall and Mrs. Clarke, and it is this that has given rise to the statement that Mrs. Clarke told Mrs. Hall of the relations of Hall and Mrs. Mills or gave her letters that Mrs. Mills had written. However, she did not."

As to the events of the early evening, Mr. Pfeiffer tells the story substantially but with more detail than it has been told before. He said:

"Louise Geist was in one of the bedrooms when the telephone rang between half past six and seven. Mrs. Hall was on the porch and Mr. Hall was in the bathroom. When the hall and a second time, Louise answered it and a voice she recognized as that of Mrs. Mills asked for Mr. Hall."

"Mrs. Hall came in from the porch and Louise called to her: 'It's for Mr. Hall,' and then Hall in the bathroom asked, 'Is that for me?' and being told the call was for him he said: 'I'll be there in a minute.'"

"He answered the telephone a minute later, and Louise heard what he said, though she could not hear what was said on the other end," Hall said: "Yes, yes, yes. Oh, that's too bad. I was going to the church in a little while. Couldn't we make arrangements for a little later, about a quarter after eight?"

**Significance in the Time.**

Pfeiffer read this conversation from his own notebook. It has been related generally before. The time he mentioned is significant as Mrs. Mills was seen near the end of the Easton avenue trolley at 8:20 that evening.

Following this telephone conversation Pfeiffer said Hall spoke to Mrs. Hall, telling her he was going over to the Mills home in relation to expediting about the hospital bill. Then he went out.

**Next Mr. Pfeiffer was asked whether Mrs. Hall still believes that the rector did not write the letters that have been published as his. He said:**

"Neither Mrs. Hall nor I have said that we did or did not believe Hall wrote those letters. When Mrs. Hall was before the prosecutor last she was shown what purported to be a facsimile of the writing in the letters and asked 'If it was Hall's and she replied that it was undoubtedly very similar to Mr. Hall's.'"

As to the whereabouts of Willie Stevens, Mr. Pfeiffer said:

"His alibi has been covered by the newspapers pretty well. He was reading in his own room that evening until he fell asleep, and he was still asleep when his sister called him at 2:30 in the morning. Willie is of the type that could not hold anything back successfully, even if he wanted to, especially if he saw a crime committed. The members of the Stevens family tell me that Willie has a perfect horror of death or dead persons." In conclusion Mr. Pfeiffer said: "I am striving to believe that this case is unsolvable."

**Doubts Mrs. Gibson's Story.**

Mr. Pfeiffer said that the impression he had obtained from talking to newspaper men and others was that Mrs. Gibson's statement did not stand up very well. He had interviewed Gorsline at length four weeks ago, "before Mr. Gorsline became such an important witness in this case." Mr. Pfeiffer would not explain this remark beyond saying that he had no reason to believe Gorsline carried any messages to Mrs. Hall.

Speaking of his own investigation Pfeiffer said it had developed no clue or information that was worth while, though it had been carried on sedulously. As soon as he found anything of importance he insisted he would take it at once to the prosecution. When he was asked whether he was convinced of the truth of the statements Gorsline

Continued on Following Page.

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